

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 as follows:

An exemplary embodiment of a data gathering/data processing device according to the present invention for video/audio signals, which is shown schematically in Figure 1, and is designated there, as a whole, by numeral 10, includes a housing 12, in which there is situated a plurality of signal processors 14 (~~DSP—digital signal processors~~) 22a, 22b, 24, 26a, and 26b, which may be digital signal processors (DSPs).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 25 as follows:

Device 10 has a plurality of connections [[16]] 18a, 18b and 18c for injecting (digital) video/audio signals. The signals thus injected are then able to be processed by signal processors [[14]] 22a, 22b, 26a, and 26b.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 29 as follows:

A camera 20a, 20b, 20c and/or a microphone are interconnected to each respective connection 18a, 18b, 18c. The device may have, for instance, 32 connections, so that altogether 32 cameras and/or microphones are able to be connected. But fewer than 32 cameras/microphones may also be connected. Basically, the number of connections [[16]] is as desired.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9 as follows:

At least one signal processor is assigned to each connection [[16]] 18a, 18b and 18c. In the exemplary embodiment shown, two signal processors 22a and 22b are assigned to connection 18a. One signal processor 24 is assigned to connection 18b. Two signal processors 26a, 26b are assigned to connection 18c.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 as follows:

Because of a plurality of signal processors 22a, 22b or 26a, 26b, which are assigned to a respective connection 18a or 18c, injected video/audio signals may be gathered and processed in different ways. For instance, via signal processor 22a one may carry out a compression of the injected data. Via signal processor 22b one may perform an analysis of

the injected data. Via signal processor [[22c]] 26a one may, for instance, carry out a data comparison.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 33 as follows:

According to the present invention, it is provided that the plurality of signal processors [[14]] 22a, 22b, 26a, and 26b (or a subset thereof) are interconnected with a network 28 having a star-shaped topology, and are thereby linked to one another. Network 28 has a hub or a switch 30, connecting lines leading in from each of the corresponding ~~signal processors~~ components (in the example shown, from signal processors 22a, 22b, [[22c,]] 24, 26a, and 26b and evaluating device 22c) to the hub or switch 30. According to the present invention, a network 28 having a star-shaped topology is integrated into device 10. This network 28 links signal processors [[14]] of data gathering device and data processing device 10 (e.g., signal processors 22a, 22b, 26a and 26b). Network 28 forms a backbone (backplane) of device 10. Network 28 is built into the device, and is particularly integrated into it.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24 as follows:

In one Ethernet network 28, four data lines 32 are required from respective signal processors [[14]] 22a, 22b, 26a, and 26b to hub or switch 30 (Tx+, Tx-, Rx+, Rx-).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 27 as follows:

In the Ethernet standard having a star-shaped network, all signal processors [[14]] 22a, 22b, 26a, and 26b are able to communicate with one another in full duplex mode.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30 as follows:

By using network 28 having star-shaped topology, and particularly using Ethernet standard, the expenditure for lines may be held low, since only just four lines have to be provided for each signal processor [[14]] 22a, 22b, 26a, and 26b. In turn, manufacturing is simplified by this. There are no problems with signal propagation delay and with distance. Furthermore, hardware modules such as hubs, switches and ports are available. In addition, a good scalability comes about. Furthermore, susceptibility to malfunctioning is reduced. A certain bandwidth is assigned to each subassembly, for instance, to signal processors 22a, 22b, which is then also able to be used appropriately.